



METROPOLITAN
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COMMISSION

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Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
July 2, 2009

Chair Paul Branson called the meeting to order at 10:34 a.m. Members in attendance: Janet Abelson, Ken Altenburger, Joe Bischofberger, Myrtle Braxton, Richard Burnett, David Grant, Rich Hedges, Dolores Jaquez, Julio Lacayo, Suzanne Levine, Marshall Loring, Joshua Miele, Marc Roddin, Doug Weir, Thora Worrell, and Craig Yates. Excused: Eleanor Bloch and Dennis Trenten.

Audience Member Self-introductions

Norah DeCuir, PMC

Doug Brooks, PMC

Wendy Alfsen, California Walks

Anne Richman, MTC

Amit Raikar, MTC

Ayela Mujeeb, MTC

Bob Planthold

Public Comment from Audience Members

There was no public comment.

Minutes

The minutes as corrected were approved after a motion by Mr. Hedges and a second by Mr. Bischofberger. Ms. Abelson, Mr. Altenburger, and Ms. Jaquez abstained.

Member Updates

Mr. Hedges mentioned that the residents of San Mateo County approved a tax that would pay for levee work to prevent disasters from future rising sea levels. Ms. Abelson shared with the committee that her husband is doing

well after receiving a kidney transplant. Mr. Burnett said that the Senior and Disabled Transportation Summit in Solano County successfully served to identify mobility problems in the county, and a second summit, to be held on October 30, will serve to identify potential solutions. Mr. Miele announced that the Technology subcommittee would meet after the EDAC meeting. Mr. Loring mentioned that the citizens of San Mateo County have begun to recognize the value of transportation demand management (TDM) for new developments. Mr. Yates mentioned that on August 5 he will race a car at Infineon Raceway as part of a fundraiser. Mr. Altenburger thanked the committee for the well-wishes he received after his surgery. Chair Branson noted that the order of the agenda changed, and Item 11 would be presented after the Legislative Report.

Advisory Council Report

Mr. Grant presented the minutes of the June 10 Advisory Council minutes. Of note, the committee continued discussion regarding the DBE program and whether or not people with disabilities qualify under the program's rules, and how the state's laws fit with federal legislation. Mr. Grant noted that two Commissioners participated in the discussion. Ms. Levine asked if the DBE issue regarding people with disabilities had been resolved. Mr. Grant said that the issue would be around for a while.

Subcommittee Reports

Mobility Management Subcommittee Co-chair Branson announced the subcommittee would meet in August.

Pedestrian Safety Subcommittee Chair Grant mentioned that the subcommittee met prior to the EDAC meeting. Members continued planning for the pedestrian counts, and worked to identify potential partners to help with the counts. The subcommittee is also planning to hold a regional pedestrian summit in late September/early October. The event will serve to discuss pedestrian safety issues.

Transportation and Land Use Subcommittee Co-chair Hedges mentioned that the subcommittee met prior to the EDAC meeting. Mr. Hedges brought a proposed policy before the committee to ask for members' support to bring the policy forward for the Commission. The proposed policy addresses

accessible and inhabitable transit oriented developments (TODs). Ms. Jaquez congratulated the committee's works. Ms. Braxton made a motion for the proposed policy to be moved to the Planning Committee meeting and Ms. Abelson seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Branson noted that the subcommittee's work was the most visible work to come out of EDAC, and Mr. Hedges thanked all members who participated to successfully bring a policy forward. Ms. Alfsen asked that the presentation be placed on the Advisory Council agenda.

Emergency Preparedness Subcommittee Chair Burnett mentioned that the subcommittee continues to work on Section 5310 applications from non-profit organizations.

Transit Technology and Accessibility Subcommittee Chair Miele announced that the subcommittee would meet after the EDAC meeting.

Chair's Report

Chair Branson reminded members that EDAC will not meet in August, but the subcommittees will meet. Chairs need to let Ms. Vogler know if they plan to hold an August meeting before the end of July in order to coordinate the schedule. He also mentioned that he attended the first meeting regarding the New Freedom grants. Mr. Miele mentioned that The Lighthouse previously applied for a grant and is due to receive the funds about a year later. He noted that the lag in receiving the funding is of great concern. Ms. Braxton also attended the meeting and noted that there are certain requirements regarding curb ramps already set by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), so organizations do not need to apply for grants to complete that sort of work. Mr. Yates mentioned that accessibility has been in California law since 1968. Ms. Levine mentioned that in San Francisco you can call 311 to report any kind of curb ramp or accessibility issue. Chair Branson also said that the lag for receiving New Freedom funding is very frustrating.

Staff Liaison Report – Ms. Vogler's announcements:

Ms. Vogler announced that Ann Flemer is replacing Therese McMillan, and Andy Fremier would now be in charge of Operations. She also mentioned that Ms. Lara will work with Ms. Levine and Mr. Miele on creating a policy

regarding packet accessibility to bring to the September meeting. Ms. Vogler announced that Ms. Levine provided her with *Sidewalks Are For Everyone* DVDs. Mr. Miele mentioned that the video is also on You Tube, and Ms. Levine said the link was provided. Mr. Hedges asked if it was permissible to use the material for presentations. Ms. Levine said as long as the author is credited.

Anne Richman of MTC staff reviewed the New Freedom Program. She said applications are due to MTC by August 7. She mentioned that three EDAC members would be invited to review applications and anyone interested should contact Ms. Vogler. Ms. Richman noted that several of the hurdles to distribute funding in a timely manner in the past have been worked out by staff. Mr. Miele clarified that the delay in funding is not terrible so long as the organizations receiving the funding are notified ahead of time.

Mr. Planthold offered his help for anyone applying for discretionary stimulus funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Legislative Report

Mr. Miele asked if there was anything specific to disability regarding high-speed rail. Randy Rentschler of MTC staff noted that at this time the subject matter was not directly addressed in the program that the Commission adopted. Mr. Rentschler reported that state legislators are proposing to take away local streets and roads funding. He noted that MTC's two bills — AB 744 (Torrico) and AB 1175 (Torlakson) — are before the Legislature. At the federal level, he noted future consolidation of federal programs in Congressman Oberstar's Surface Transportation Authorization Act of 2009. Staff does not expect anything to happen soon on the federal authorization bill.

Member comment:

Ms. Braxton asked if there was opposition to AB 744 from various jurisdictions. Mr. Rentschler said only from Contra Costa County. Ms. Abelson asked for clarification about how the new federal bill would look. Mr. Rentschler noted that it is too early in the process, but the bill is a good indication of where things will go. Ms. Abelson asked how transit would be affected. Mr. Rentschler said transit would probably receive more

funding if the Oberstar bill passes. Mr. Hedges suggested that a regional collection of taxes makes more sense than state tax collection.

MTC Advisory Committee Review

Mr. Rentschler introduced a review of the Transportation 2035 public outreach program, the results of which led staff to conduct a review of the current advisory committee structure. He noted that MTC is serious about improving the advisory process and that issues such as climate change have changed the way MTC works. MTC's consultant, Norah DeCuir of PMC, led the discussion. She noted that PMC's advisor survey results found that advisors felt joint meetings were useful; however, they felt that communication with the Commission was not as effective. PMC also spoke with Commissioners and found that joint meetings were useful in strengthening the three C's of communication, collaboration, and consensus; however, they felt the three C's could be improved.

Member comment:

Ms. DeCuir asked members about the best way to engage the Commissioners. Mr. Yates said Commissioners should attend EDAC meetings. Ms. Braxton suggested having a liaison from the Commission who is assigned to attend the meetings. Mr. Miele said there should be a mechanism for Commissioners to respond to things sent by EDAC members, such as an advisory memo. Mr. Loring said he finds one-on-one meetings useful. Ms. Abelson suggested increased interaction with the Commission in the form of motions. Mr. Grant said more time and attention should be spent on advisory committee minutes during the Commission meetings, and said that motions made by the committees should at least go before the Planning Committee. Ms. Jaquez said a more formal relationship was necessary, such as Advisory Committee chairs making short presentations at the Commission meeting. Mr. Hedges also suggested there should be a report from the chairs, at least at the Planning Committee meeting. Ms. Levine suggested a formal process for members to be able to meet with Commissioners. Ms. Alfsen requested that there be a place on the Commission agenda for resolutions, policies and motions passed by the Advisory Committees. She also noted that there was no mechanism for members to make formal motions at the joint advisor meetings, and she opposes abolishing the committees.

Mr. Planthold said advisory resolutions have to be on the appropriate meeting's agenda.

Ms. DeCuir asked what a potential joint committee might look like.

Ms. Braxton said she disagrees with terminating the committee. Ms. DeCuir said the goal would be to find ways in which lines of communication between advisors and Commissioners might be strengthened. Mr. Hedges noted that EDAC members are tremendously dedicated and have achieved great results, and losing the committee would be a great loss. He also recognized a certain amount of synergy between all three committees and working together would strengthen the advisors' role.

Ms. Abelson noted that advisors actually advise staff rather than the Commission due to the level of detail of their work. She felt that staff has done an excellent job of taking their advice. She also mentioned that public outreach needs to be improved.

Mr. Miele said that staff actually makes the recommendations, not the Commission, and he said that advisory committees are a PR operation that Commissioners can point to, to provide public accountability. Ms. Levine said that value is forgotten when certain successes happen with advisory committees. She noted that integration is important and that the minority and disabled community have parallel issues, but they are not the same. She said the solution is not to dismantle, but to educate about disability issues. She also mentioned that it is important to have diversity within the committees.

Ms. DeCuir asked the group to submit their comments to her by August 14.

Ms. Jaquez said that if there is something that will make the committees function better she wants to know what that plan is. Mr. Hedges believes the committees are effective and to make them work better there should be representatives from each committee attending the other meetings.

Chair Branson said EDAC's task is important and the connection with the Commission could be vastly improved. He noted that due to changing demographics, and because the population is aging and there will be more disabled people, there needs to be more consideration of the interests of these communities. Ms. Braxton said that a joint committee may facilitate

communication within the three committees. Mr. Grant said a “one-size-fits-all” model does not work. Ms. Abelson noted there is value in collaboration with other groups. Mr. Lacayo cautioned against using another agency’s model because the Bay Area is unique in terms of demographics and issues, and applying someone else’s model may not work for the Bay Area. Ms. Vogler thanked committee members for their comments.

STP/CMAQ Programming for the New Federal Transportation Act

Craig Goldblatt of MTC staff presented a preliminary proposal on the programming priorities for the next federal transportation authorization bill.

Member Comment:

Mr. Yates asked why the Proposition 1B transit funding program was funding BART to Warm Springs. Mr. Goldblatt clarified that the program is based on what the Commission had already approved. Ms. Abelson asked how the results of the of the Transportation 2035 project evaluations were achieved. Mr. Goldblatt said the evaluation was done during the T2035 planning process. Mr. Loring suggested finding a way to prevent one particular issue from overwhelming the long-term public benefits to the region.

Other Business, Next Meeting

There was no other business. The next EDAC meeting is scheduled for September 3, 2009. The meeting was adjourned at 12:41 p.m.